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Kangaroo Grass
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
SOCIETY
BALLARAT DISTRICT

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District

Newsletter – September 2021

**MONTHLY MEETINGS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY
at ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE
GILLIES STREET ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4**

FURTHER DETAILS SEE INFORMATION BOX



Photo: Fon Ryan

September 1st is Wattle Day in Australia

Acacia pycnantha, the Golden Wattle, is the Floral Emblem of Australia. How much publicity does Wattle Day receive on TV, radio, and in the print media of newspapers and magazines? ABC Ballarat highlighted Wattle Day on the 1st September on the breakfast show from 6-15am to 10-00am by asking listeners to send in photos of wattle trees. It got quite a number of mentions throughout the morning.

COMING EVENTS

MEETING CANCELLED

**THE MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY – 8th SEPTEMBER, 2021
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

(The Annual General Meeting was scheduled to be part of the above meeting. It will be held at a later date. Some nominations for executive positions have been received, however further nominations are welcome, particularly for the position of Vice-president.)

**Australian Plants Society Ballarat District
SPRING 2021 NATIVE PLANT SHOW
Saturday 23rd October 10-00am to 5-00pm
Sunday 24th October 10-00am to 4-30pm
Robert Clark Horticultural Centre Ballarat Botanical Gardens**

SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021 — GARDENS VISITS – Drive yourself or Car Pool

Visit Carol and Brian Hendrickson's Garden at 6075 Ballarat-Maryborough Road, Daisy Hill, (between Talbot and Maryborough) and then visit Helen and Neville Collier's Garden at nearby Bung Bong. Travel from Ballarat to Daisy Hill is approximately 70 km – a 45-minute drive. Neville will guide us to the gardens and will also BBQ lunch for us.

Details to be sent to members

Enquires to the Events Coordinator: Gladys, 53415567, email: johnhastie37@bigpond.com

APS BALLARAT DISTRICT PROGRAM: SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER, 2021

Covid regulations apply. Everyone must check in with QR or APS Tablet. Masks must be worn.

October 13th Wednesday, 2021, 7.30pm Monthly General Meeting at the Robert Clark Centre.

October 14th Thursday, 2021 Coach Trip to Wartook Garden, Grampians

PLEASE NOTE: THIS EXCURSION HAS BEEN RE-SCHEDULED.

Morning tea and lunch included. Further details later.

November 10th Wednesday, 2021, 7.30pm Monthly General Meeting at the Robert Clark Centre
Guest Speaker – Nicky Zanen

December 8th Wednesday, 2021 - No meeting this month. Christmas break-up.

THE GARDEN AT ELAINE IN AUGUST

There are many plants in flower in our garden that usually do not flower until at least the middle of September – they are three or four weeks early. These plants include the local Varnish Wattle *Acacia verniciflua*. Other wattles which have already flowered are holding their blooms much longer than usual.

Among the plants now in flower are *Boronia anemonifolia* (Sticky Boronia, profuse pale pink flowers and a repulsive odour if the leaves are touched), *Boronia muelleri* x, *Gastrolobium celisianum* (Swan River Pea), *Halgania pressii*, *Hibbertia serata* 'Sunshine', *Hypocalymna xanthopetalum*, *Olearea homolepus*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolia*, *Philotheca myoporoides* (Native Wax Flower, Short-leaf form), *Philotheca* x 'Flower Girl', *Prostanthera seiberi*, *Templetonia retusa* (Cockies Tongue, both upright and prostrate), *Thryptomene saxicola alba* 'Supernova', *Thryptomene* x 'Paynes Hybrid', *Thomasia purpurea* x, and *Ziera* x 'Pink Crystals'.

Many of the correas and eremophilas are still producing enough blooms to attract honeyeaters. The greenhood orchids, *Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding Greenhood), *P. pedunculata* (Maroon Greenhood), and *P. curta* (Blunt Greenhood) are flowering very well. They are in our garden courtesy of Judith Lewis.

Sue Ring photographed these caterpillars earlier this year in February.

She wants to know if anyone can tell her what species they are and are they 'Australians'?

The ones on the left are munching away on a grapevine, the one on the right on a mistletoe.



TEN YEAR FLASHBACK

From the September 2011 Newsletter

AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER REPORT by John Hastie

Guest Speaker – Brendon Stahl – Banksias

The Banksia genus includes 77 species and 27 sub-species and cultivars. (This does not include the Dryandras recently transferred into the genus.)

Brendon and his wife have about fifty of the species on their land at Deans Marsh. Many of these are utilised commercially for their flowers, foliage and seed cones. The Western Australian species do well in their sandy soil; the Queensland ones are harder to grow.

Propagation of Banksias may be done by using seed or cuttings. Cutting-grown plants may flower after one year but seed-grown specimens take from two to six years to flower. Seeds can be extracted from the cones by heating in a low temperature oven. Some species often open better if heated, soaked in water and then re-heated.

Seeds may be germinated in a seed-raising mix of 3 parts sand to 1 part vermiculite. Germination takes from 3 to 6 weeks. No fertilizer should be used until the second potting on when a very small quantity of slow-release native plant food may be used.

Banksias may be pruned to keep them compact. Dead flowers should be removed unless seed is required.

Brendon illustrated his talk with slides of about thirty species. The slides were of flowers, cones and full or parts of plants to show foliage and growth habit. Most of the plants shown were from the Stahl's own garden.



Banksia solandri was one of the many banksia flowers that Guest Speaker Brendon Stahl brought to the meeting to show us. This one is 18cm tall.

Picture: Fon Ryan

Stan Kelly's Book 'EUCALYPTS Volume 1' was first published in 1969.

He was interviewed for a story about him for the 'Weekly Times' newspaper.

The resultant article (below) appeared in the July 17, 1991 issue.

Just Imagine being introduced to Michelangelo and then finding out he was originally a fighter pilot or submarine commander.

I refer to Stan Kelly, a master watercolour painter of the flowers of Australia's gum trees, whose works are now published by the Penguin Books people.

Stan is a dear, gentle soul, looking about 60, but going on about 80.

He's also a former train driver who graduated from driving goods trains to driving the Overlander between Adelaide and Melbourne.

He once even slowed down his goods train so he could jump out and grab a bit of gum which appealed to him!

It has taken Stan more than 30 years of work to paint some 530 different species of gum.

"In that time, botanists have discovered about 150 more species of gum.

But now I'm into painting colourful fungi. I've done 350 paintings so far, but there are 14,000 species, so I won't run out of subjects!

I began by painting wildflowers because I couldn't afford a colour camera!"

And some people say life's boring!



Photo:
Jennifer Johnson

A 'Lilac' Kangaroo Paw flowering in the Ballarat garden of Jennifer Johnson in October 2020.

Thanks to all those who contributed reports or items for this issue

Deadline for October Newsletter: 29th September 2021



AFTERNOON TEA or SUPPER

Members, please have a cuppa at home for arvo tea or supper

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BALLARAT DISTRICT INC. Incorporation No. A0013127M

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Treasurer: Ainslie Whyte PO Box 123W Ballarat West 3350
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MONTHLY MEETINGS

The **SECOND WEDNESDAY** in October, November, December, February, March, at 7-30pm
The **SECOND WEDNESDAY** in April, May, June, July, August, September, at 2-00pm

MEETING VENUE

ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE, Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Access: GILLIES St. ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4 (or from Wendouree Parade, (**Afternoon Meetings only**))

CORRESPONDENCE

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WEB: (APS Vic): www.apsvic.org.au ---- then go to APS Ballarat District page



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